

REMARKS

Initially, it is noted that this Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the recently allowed parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 10/165,892, filed June 10, 2002). Accordingly, Claims 20-21, as well as new Claims 22-31, remain pending in the present divisional patent application.

Also by the foregoing amendments, Claims 20 and 21 have both been rewritten in independent form and now include the features of cancelled Claim 1. New Claims 22-26 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 20 and recite features similar to those of canceled Claims 2-4 and 7-8, respectively. New Claims 27-31 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 21 and recite features similar to those of canceled Claims 2-4 and 7-8, respectively.

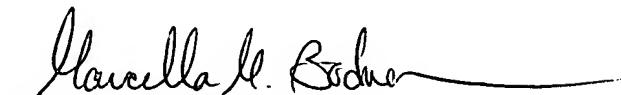
In addition, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended by the foregoing amendments, to include the required cross-reference to related applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, early and favorable action on the present application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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